

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR



World

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EMBER, 1957

Topics for December



KOREAN ENDEAVORERS ATTEND SUMMER CONFERENCE

For Christ and the Church

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World

Cover

Endeavorers are pictured at the conference held August 20-24 at a camp near Seoul, Korea. The two gentlemen in the center of the second row, whose photos are marked, are Kap Shik Sung (left) general secretary, and Sung Soo Whang, chairman. Read Dr. Poling's report on page 4 for information about Christian Endeavor in Korea.

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The Voice of Christian Endeavor

NOVEMBER • 1957

Volume 73, Number 3

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From the Executive Secretary . . .

PAID UP! Listen to a letter received recently from a long-time Christian Endeavorer. She writes, "My husband made a pledge to Christian Endeavor before the depression of '29 and '30 and I know we never did get it paid. He has passed away some time back and I can now see my way clear to pay the pledge with interest." With it she sent a generous contribution for the larger work of Christian Endeavor. Perhaps you have been wanting to send a gift for this work; perhaps for some time you have purposed to write a check, but just have not done so. The ministry of Christian Endeavor International depends on the prayers and active concern of you and other like you.

ACROSS THE BORDER! We salute Jean Ferguson of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, as she leaves her regular employment to enter Deaconess Training School in Toronto, in preparation for full-time Christian service in the Presbyterian Church. Jean is secretary of the Youth Assembly and a trustee of the International Society of Christian Endeavor. . . . Congratulations to Mary Campbell, also of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, on the completion of the "Saga of Christian Endeavor," a history of the movement in the Dominion of Canada. Written by the president of the Canadian Christian Endeavor Union, this twenty-four page, attractively bound book is being placed in libraries and with other institutions and agencies throughout the Dominion.

HERE AND THERE! Dr. J. Gordon Howard, former president of Otterbein College and chairman of the Columbus Convention Committee (1955) for the 43rd International Christian Endeavor Convention, has been elected to the office of Bishop in the Evangelical United Brethren Church . . . Richard "Dick" Pruiksma, former chairman of the Youth Assembly, was recently ordained to the ministry and installed as pastor of the Athens (New York) Reformed Church . . . Phyllis G. Brown, Richmond, Virginia, a member of the Executive Committee and chairman of the Educational Committee of the International Society, was recently awarded a degree in Journalism . . . Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Weiss (he is a former field secretary of the Michigan Christian Endeavor Union) with their daughter, Catherine Joan, are on their way to Iraq where they will serve as missionaries in the mission stations of the Reformed Church in America . . . Executive Committee member Alden Imus and wife Lois are receiving congratulations on the arrival of a son, Benjamin Alden . . . Robert W. McQuilkin, son of International Society trustee Arch J. McQuilkin, Strafford, Pennsylvania, has had a busy few weeks. Bob, an ardent, enthusiastic Christian Endeavorer, was recently graduated from the College of Wooster, was married on August 31 to Janet Smith of Hamburg, New York, and entered McCormick Theological Seminary (Presbyterian, USA) in Chicago in the fall term.

WE MOURN! Christian Endeavorers have been saddened by the news of the death of Dr. John D. Duff of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A Life Member and a long-time trustee of the International Society, "Jack" Duff was Christian Endeavor at its best. His influence and Christian witness will long be felt. . . . We mourn too the death of Dr. T. T. Roberts, world traveller, minister of the Minnesota Avenue Christian Church of Washington, D. C., and Christian Endeavor enthusiast. . . . "Mother Alice" is dead. A great Christian Endeavor leader in the Hawaiian Islands, the Reverend Alice Kaho-kuluna for eighteen years ministered to the sick in the Hansen's Disease settlement on the Island of Molokai. She was the first woman to have been ordained a minister in Hawaii's Congregational churches. She was first assigned to Siloama Church (the church of the healing spring) in the original settlement on the island.

GET OUT THE VOTE! That time is here again. Election time, we mean. It is your right, your Christian responsibility, to vote and to get out the vote. Elect Christian men and women to office; encourage Christians to accept civic responsibility; be thankful for the great freedoms we enjoy—and help to preserve them.

Harold Westerhoff

Christian Endeavor Plans Seventh Citizenship Contest

**Albert H. Diebold Awards Total \$1,000 in Cash
Plus Two Free Trips to Convocation
In New York City July 4-6, 1958**



Youth of North America have opportunities to win honors in the seventh annual Christian Endeavor Citizenship Contest which is being conducted by the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

Robert C. Ross, citizenship director, announces that the Albert H. Diebold awards, totaling \$1,000 in cash and two free trips to Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Convocation in New York City, will be given to the winners.

The International Society's current Christian Citizenship program, including the contest and awards, is made possible through a gift from Albert H. Diebold, a Christian layman of New York City.

The contest will challenge youth as Christian citizens; interest them in combating the evils of communism, liquor, narcotics, gambling, and prejudice; and encourage youth and editors to speak for Christian citizenship.

Two Divisions

There will be two divisions in the competition. Division A will be for all youth who are in high school or below February 3, 1958. Youth who are out of high school, but who have not reached their 25th birthday by that date, will be eligible to compete in Division B.

Winners will be determined by the merits of "A Letter to My Editor" on the subject SPEAK FOR CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP! along with a Christian Citizenship Service Record of the individual.

Similar awards will be given in each division. In each state or province a boy or girl will be chosen as the winner in each division and then will be eligible for competition in the nine regions of North America. Each regional winner will be in the final judging for top international awards.

The first award in each division will be \$200 in cash plus a grant (to a maximum of \$200) for expense of attending Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Convocation in New York City, July 4-6, 1958. Special recognition will be given to contest winners at the convocation.

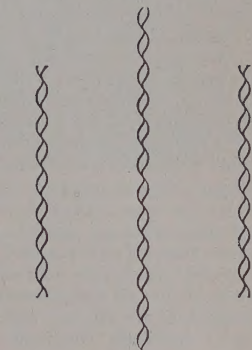
The second award will be \$100 in cash and the third \$50 in each division. For the next six runners-up in the international finals in each division there will be prizes of \$25 for each. Certificates of Recognition and special award emblems will be presented to the winners of all state and provincial contests.

Send Nominations to Columbus

Youth desiring to enter the contest may be nominated by an adult, by another young person, or by themselves. The official nomination form must be sent to the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio, by February 3, 1958. The "Letter" and Service Record must be in the hands of the citizenship director of the state or province where the youth lives no later than February 25, 1958. This is also the last date to send "Letters" to local newspaper editors. Announcement of the top winners will be made by April 25, 1958.

Ellen L. Heacock of Denver, Colorado, took first honors in Division A of the contest this year. Carolyn Arnold of Dallas, Texas, was first award winner in Division B.

Further information concerning the contest may be secured by writing to the International Society of Christian Endeavor or by contacting leaders of state and provincial unions. Citizenship directors are taking care of the promotion of the contest and the judging in their areas.



NOMINATION FORM

Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Contest

NOTE: You may be nominated by an adult, by another young person, or by yourself.

Valid only if postmarked no later than February 3, 1958.

Citizenship Director
International Society of Christian Endeavor
1221 East Broad Street
Columbus 16, Ohio

I hereby nominate the following young person for participation in Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Contest. Please send the forms for the "Letter" and the Service Record to the nominee.

Nominee's Name _____
(Please Print)

Number and Street _____

City, Zone, State _____

I agree to encourage my nominee to complete the "Letter" and the Service Record.

(Name of Person Making Nomination)

(Number and Street of Person Making Nomination)

(City, Zone, State of Person Making Nomination)

Christian Endeavor in the Far East

A Report by the President of the World's Christian Endeavor Union

Christian Endeavor in Korea is an inspiring and prophetic spectacle. It has the sacrificial intensity of the early church—even these younger boys and girls retain vivid memories of slaughter in their villages, of their parents and pastors killed in the mass executions that followed the capture of North Korean cities and villages. Christian Endeavorers do not regard Communism as just another ideology or form of government. They name it as a ruthless and obscene atheism and take their stand against it in the name of both freedom and faith. They cannot understand how Christians anywhere can temporize or "willingly peacefully coexist." In spite of all their tortured memories, they will pray for these their "enemies," but never will they be deceived by them nor by their apologists.

I had two all-too-brief sessions with our Korean National Chairman, the Honorable Sung Soo Whang, and our General Secretary, Kap Shik Sung, and was thrilled by the reports they brought of continuing growth in numbers and in activities. The summer assembly this year was a time of testimony and dedication and the national convention just held in Pusan (South Korea) brings reports of more than 100,000 enrolled and active Christian Endeavorers—certainly the largest Christian Endeavor constituency in all Asia and indeed in all Asian history. National Chairman Whang is also a member of the Korean National Assembly, has served as vice-speaker of that body, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and is a member of the all-important Budget Committee.

One report from the Korean Presbyterian Church erected by North Korean refugees is significant of the vitality of Christianity in this heroic land—four o'clock morning prayer meetings are held in the large and beautiful stone church built since the war, attended by 1,500 and 2,000 people. In these gatherings daily prayers were offered for the success of the Billy Graham Crusade in New York.

My meeting with our gracious Japan Endeavorers was brief, sadly limited. Two typhoons—Gloria and Fay (why should such

lovely names be attached to these angry, ugly "killers"!)—change my well-laid plans. Many Endeavorers who came to meet me dinner just before my take-off for Wake Island, Honolulu, San Francisco were compelled to leave for their homes and without seeing me. The dinner plans were ruined but Bishop A. Mr. Hata, and our secretaries, Mr. Watanabe and his associates remained with me and gave me an inspiring story of summer conferences held again this year with fifteen full-time decisions for Christian service. Japan hopes to be represented at the Frankfurt World Convention in Germany next summer, as does Korea. Our long-time loyal associate, Rev. Akira Ebisawa, who has been seriously ill, sent me a characteristically affectionate letter.

Again on the ever lovely Hawaiian Islands the typhoon destroyed any formal program, but I had a glimpse of our stalwart leader, Walter Nomura, and his small son, who promises to be father's worthy double. Now I may look forward to January 1959 when my scheduled visit to our Australian and New Zealand Christian Endeavor Unions offers me the hope of at least a day in the Islands.

Germany and Great Britain in August and Japan, Korea, and Hawaii in September have given me again the vision splendid of Christian youth and of Christian Endeavorers in particular, the march for Christ and the Church.

My two conference periods with our chaplains in the Armed Services in Japan and Korea gave me my opportunities for Christian Endeavor contacts in Asia as well as for visits to Christ Herald Children's Homes and Orphanages in Korea, Hong Kong, and on Formosa during August and September of this year.

Daniel A. Poling

Christian Endeavorers Will Tour Europe, Attend Convention

Another of the justly-famous Christian Endeavor Fellowship Tours is planned for the summer of 1958.

Harold E. Westerhoff, tour manager, announces that Christian Endeavorers of North America who join this European tour party will spend 30 days on the continent, visiting eight countries (England, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, and the Italian-French Riviera).

Tour party members will also attend the 13th World's Christian Endeavor Convention which will be held July 23-27 in the great Festival Hall in Frankfurt, Germany.

The tour group leaves New York City on July 12 by air, returning by plane on August 11.

Mr. Westerhoff, who journeyed over the tour itinerary in his travels this summer, promises tour party members the trip of a lifetime.

For additional tour information write to International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio.

FRANKFURT PROGRAM COMMITTEE—Members of the committee shown as they make plans for the 13th World's Christian Endeavor Convention are (left to right): Dr. Earle W. Gates, president of the International Society; Dr. Daniel A. Poling, president of the World's Union; Rev. Arno Pagel, president of the German Union; William Sharpe, general secretary of Area II, World's Union; and Harold E. Westerhoff, acting general secretary of Area I, World's Union. Rev. Georg Meier of Kassel, general secretary of the German Union, also a member of this committee, was not present when the picture was taken. Program high lights include praise, missionary, and evangelistic services, with messages presented by Christian leaders from around the world. Open air services, a Roll Call of Nations with presentation of flags, and a communion service are other features.

THIRTEENTH CONVENTION World's Christian Endeavor Union OFFICIAL CALL

To CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORERS IN EVERY LAND

Greetings:

IN THE NAME OF THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORERS OF GERMANY, we, the officers of the World's Christian Endeavor Union and cooperating National Christian Endeavor Unions, invite the Christian Endeavorers from all lands to attend the Thirteenth World's Christian Endeavor Convention, to be held in Frankfurt, Germany, July 23 to 27, 1958.

We would convene in the spirit of Him who said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." We would make vital in the life of Christian Endeavor in all the world, and in its world organization, the leadership of Christ in personal living, in evangelism, in Christian education, in Christian citizenship and in Christian brotherhood.

The convention theme will be "Christ, the Light of the World."

The convention program will include all phases of Christian Endeavor: summer organization, and service.

The German officers and Endeavorers cordially invite us in the name of our common Lord, and they open to us their hearts and homes.

Further particulars may be had from William J. Sharpe, General Secretary, Area I, World's Christian Endeavor Union, Superstine, Leamington Road, Ryton-on-Dunelm, Warwickshire, England; and from Harold E. Westerhoff, Acting General Secretary, Area II, World's Christian Endeavor Union, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio, U. S. A.

Finally, we call upon Endeavorers everywhere and their friends of all lands, all tongues all races, and all evangelical churches to unite with us in prayer for the success of this world gathering.



Arno Pagel
President
World's Christian Endeavor Union

William Sharpe
General Secretary
Area I, World's Christian Endeavor Union

Harold E. Westerhoff
Acting General Secretary
Area II, World's Christian Endeavor Union

WORLD'S CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR HEADQUARTERS
Columbus 16, Ohio, U. S. A.
"for Christ and the Church"



NEWS

from around the world

SIT TO IRELAND—Twenty-two German Christian Endeavorers spent two weeks last year in the "Emerald Isle" at the invitation of the Irish Christian Endeavor Union. Pastor Ulrich Weber, on behalf of the German Endeavorers, says, "Our stay in this wonderful country and meeting its people, above all the brotherhood in Jesus Christ, will be a lasting memory for all our members."



REGIONAL CONFERENCES — One hundred Endeavorers from the five states in the Great Lakes Region met at Winona Lake, Indiana, October 5 and 6. Dr. Elmer Becker, president of Huntington College, was the banquet speaker. Al Day of Ontario led singing. Southern Region Endeavorers held their fall open board meeting at Roanoke, Virginia, October 11 and 12. Harold Westerhoff, executive secretary of the International Society, participated in the sessions.

"GOOD SOLDIERS" — *With this motto Irish Endeavorers met in September at Enniskillen for their national convention. The theme was "That we may please Him."*

DIAL-A-DEVOTION — An amazing response to the new telephone ministry of First Presbyterian Church, New Castle, Pennsylvania, is reported by Dr. Gene Stone, pastor. During the first five days of full operation there were 18,197 calls completed. By dialing OL 8-5521 day or night, individuals can hear a brief message, Scripture, and prayer. Dr. Stone, a former general secretary of the International Society, is now serving as a member of the Executive Committee.

OREGON FACULTY—Members of the faculty for Oregon's Leadership Training Conference at Camp Adams this summer were: First row (left to right)—Mrs. Richard Kribs, Nancy Merriman, Mrs. Ella Reiersen, Mrs. Newell Morgan, Mrs. Walter Frutiger. Second row—Rev. Robert Hess, Carl Back, Bill Arthur, Dorothy Howes, Mrs. Carl Back. Third row—Rev. Walter Frutiger, Roy Lawson, DeWayne Howell, Homer Todd, Richard Kribs. A total of 102 attended representing 12 district unions. The following new decisions were recorded: Discarding Christ, 11; Out and Out and, 26; Quiet Hour, 27; Tenth Legion, 21; Soul Winner, 34; Lifework Recruit, 10; and Special Decisions, 15. The Oregon Executive Committee met at Camp Adams the closing weekend of conference, with 36 of the 46 officers present.

O—Theme of Colorado's Convention October 24-26 was "Go," based on Matthew 8:19,20. Sessions were held at the Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Denver. Features of the convention included sessions for Juniors on Saturday morning and a hymn singing on the steps of the state Capitol.

Know Your America Week

In many communities in the United States November 24-30 will be celebrated as Know Your America Week.

Christian Endeavorers are urged to participate in local activities or to initiate plans. The week's observance is sponsored by the All-American Conference to Combat Communism.

Write to the International Society of Christian Endeavor for a detailed manual of instructions.

NOVEMBER, 1957

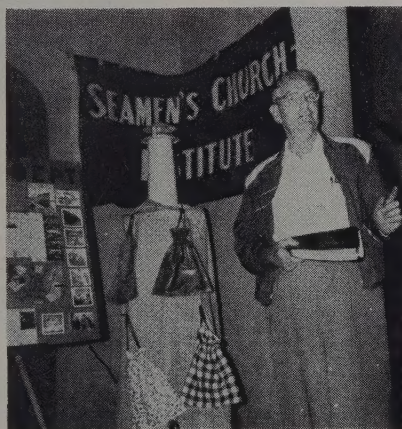
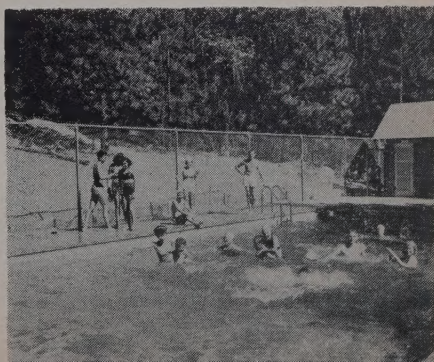


OFFICERS INSTALLED—Newly-elected officers of Carroll County (Maryland) Union pictured after their installation September 8 are: First row (left to right)—Mrs. Russell Gassman, Mabel R. Albert, Mrs. Roy Kiser, Mrs. Roger Boone, Mrs. Claude Bohn. Second row—Russell Gassman, Roger L. Boone, president, Kenneth Pickett, Rev. Paul W. Moore, Rev. Cronise H. Barr.

TEXANS SELECT—Loren Griswold and Carole Carpenter, both of Houston and active Endeavorers in Second Christian Church there, were elected "Mr. and Miss Christian Endeavor" of Texas for 1957. The award was presented at the Fellowship Banquet during the recent state convention in Dallas.

TAHQUITZ PINES—Rev. Martin C. Soper, field secretary of the Los Angeles County Christian Endeavor Union, reports that ten conferences were held at Tahquitz Pines this summer with over 2200 delegates attending. A total of 4704 decisions were made, including 438 who received Christ as Saviour and 808 who fully surrendered their hearts to Christ. Tahquitz Pines conference grounds, valued at approximately \$500,000, are owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Union. Located in the beautiful San Jacinto Mountains of Southern California, the grounds have the very latest modern facilities. During the 1958 season a special college age conference is planned, as well as two winter conferences. The Los Angeles County Union is composed of about 400 Christian Endeavor societies in 181 churches.

ENDEAVORERS FROLIC in the heated waters of Tahquitz Pines swimming pool.



FLOATING ENDEAVOR—William H. Hutchinson, superintendent of the Floating Department of the Pennsylvania Christian Endeavor Union, is pictured with comfort bags which are provided to merchant seamen at Christmas time. Pennsylvania Endeavorers make the bags and fill them with 22 useful articles. They also conduct a meeting each Monday evening at Seamen's Church Institute in Philadelphia, bringing the Gospel to those who attend. After the meeting a social hour is held.

Youth Forum

During the sessions of the recent International Christian Endeavor Convention in Portland, Oregon, several members of the Youth Assembly acted as "inquiring reporters." They asked convention delegates questions about Christian Endeavor and about witnessing to the Christian faith. Here is the first series of questions and answers.

We Asked

What does Christian Endeavor mean to you?

Young People Answered

Marilyn Noble, Columbus, New Mexico

—Christian Endeavor to me means a way to associate with other Christians and to live closer to God. It of course brings many people to Christ.

Arthur Neumarkel, Bakersfield, California

—Christian Endeavor is my entire way of working for the Lord in an organized way and it's the source of most of my true Christian friends.

Johnetta Jenkins, Chicago, Illinois

—Christian Endeavor means to me an organization to keep young people occupied and to learn more about Christ.

Loren Griswold, Houston, Texas

—To me Christian Endeavor is the best of youth movements. I have learned much through Christian Endeavor and I owe my loyalty to Christ's Church to it, because as I became discouraged Christian Endeavor would bring me back.

Marilyn Martin, Roseburg, Oregon

—To me Christian Endeavor means a chance to meet with other Christian youth to join in fun and fellowship with Christ and each other, and to learn more about the Christian way of life.

Johnetta Smith, Roseburg, Oregon

—To me Christian Endeavor means a time to worship with friends and Christian young people. It means a place to have fellowship and good clean fun, a place to learn more of Christ.

Sunny Lu Peer, Columbus, New Mexico

—It is hard to say all that Christian Endeavor means to me, because it does mean so much. Of course, it means learning—learning about Christ's life and coming closer to Him. It means learning together how to win youth to Christ. Best of all, it means fellowship—with God and our friends.

Arlene Reimes, Wausau, Wisconsin

—Understanding everybody's point of view but still staying firm to your own faith.

Jana Woodrum, Berthoud, Colorado—It means wonderful fellowship with Christ's people of every race, creed, and nationality.

Carol E. Gates, Derby, New York—Christian Endeavor to me, in a few words, means just about all of everyday life. Nearly all of my activities center around Christian Endeavor in one way or another. I feel too that it is "tops" as far as youth organizations go, especially the wonderful Christian fellowship enjoyed in Christian Endeavor. The goals in Christian Endeavor are ones which any young person or adult should have set for his life.

New State Union Presidents



C. Gardener Henderson
Virginia



Herbert Wilson
Maryland

Get Set Now To Celebrate 77th Birthday

February 2 will mark the 77th birth of Christian Endeavor. Now is the time all societies and unions to make preparation for celebrating this anniversary.

"Lord, I Believe" is the theme for 1958 Christian Endeavor Week observance which is scheduled from January 26 to February 2.

Since the actual birthday of the movement will this year fall on Christian Endeavor Day, the Sunday ending the Week, it affords Christian Endeavorers an excellent opportunity to climax the activities of the Week with a worship service, thanking God for the blessings that have come to youth through this organization.

Plan Early

Now is the time to make decisions concerning the activities for Christian Endeavor Week. Check dates and places and appoint committees soon.

For help in making adequate plans, see the 1958 Christian Endeavor Week Packet. This contains a manual packed full of ideas and suggestions, along with scripts for radio and television programs, party plans, bi-quiet helps, etc.

The packets are available now from your state or provincial union or may be ordered direct from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio. The cost of the complete packet is only 50c.

HAVE YOU NOMINATED someone for Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Contest? Read the details on page 3 of this issue of THE WORLD. Send your nomination today.

Live Daily...
For **CHRIST** and the Church



ATTEND **CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR** REGULARLY

POSTERS TELL THE STORY—Hundreds of posters with this attractive four-color illustration will tell the Christian Endeavor story to thousands as they travel the streets and highways in the United States and Canada. November 15 is the deadline date for Christian Endeavorers to place orders for these posters. You can share in the evangelism outreach of this program. Contact your union or poster chairman or write to the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

Christmas

with Young Adults

CHRISTMAS is a red-letter day for those in the Young Adult fellowship who are Christians. For Christmas is above all a day for the family! But at this season, also, the Young Adult unit will think about those members and others of this age group who are away from their own homes—working business men and women, some students and teachers, service men and women, and others.

No doubt there should be one Christmas service (on Sunday, the 22nd, by preference) which is planned by and for Young Adults and friends. A service activity in Christmas week is also recommended.

In the Christmas service—one of so many which Young Adult Christians have enjoyed—what are the essentials?

1. The Christmas story should be read in the meeting, probably by several who take part in the reading. Luke's story is familiar and well loved. Yet we must turn to Matthew to read of the visit of the wise men. These Magi, by the way, are said to have

been the subjects for more religious paintings than any other Bible characters save Jesus and His mother.)

2. A quiet time, for meditation, perhaps immediately following the Christmas reading, may be provided. Soft music, such as *The First Noel* or *Holy Night*, may be played.

3. Christmas hymns will be planned, in a considerable number—perhaps one or two given as solos, one as a choral group selection, and others to be sung by all. The leader might wish to emphasize the inclusive character of our familiar Christmas hymns and carols.

4. Contributions at this meeting may be devoted to such special purposes as: to brighten Christmas by practical gifts for "less chance" children or for lonely older persons; to aid missionary work, either locally or in widespread missions centers.

5. Messages may have been solicited in advance from members and former members who are now visiting or residing elsewhere. A few may be read; others might be placed on a bulletin board or in a cellophane-envelope type of binder.

6. Decide now whether there should be a testimony period toward the close of the Christmas service, or a message from one member, or both.

7. As a benediction, consider the closing words of I Peter 5:14: "Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen."

AS a suggestion or two for one who may be speaking in such a meeting, and also for our personal meditation, here are thoughts on the setting and the meaning of Bethlehem:

The village is among the hills, surrounded by terraced gardens. Flocks still feed along the slopes, watched by the shepherds.

Some visitors in our times are disturbed by a huckstering atmosphere and by the hordes of young beggars. The Church of the Holy Nativity has somewhat the appearance of a fort, and the divisions in Christianity are cruelly evident in the sharp separation of the shrine into Roman Catholic, Armenian Rite, and Greek Orthodox areas.

"It is better to think of Jesus' birthplace in terms of the great paintings, rather than in terms of the massive edifice and jostling crowds of today," one visitor remarked.

"That we may all be one" might be the pilgrim's prayer on leaving Bethlehem.

The town's history may be traced in the Bible. Rachel died on the way to Bethlehem (then Ephrath), as recorded in Genesis 35. Bethlehem was the home town of Naomi, to which her daughter-in-law Ruth of Moab went with her. Here Boaz and his wife Ruth lived. David was a boy in Bethlehem; here he was anointed by Samuel (I Samuel 16 and 17:12-15; also Ruth 4:17). Also read Matthew 2:1-15, in which Micah is quoted.

When Mary lay thinking that night in the hay
What little thing she would give Jesus for play,
His Father in heaven hung out for a toy
The Star, and young Jesus He caroled for joy.

When Mary was sad for the Babe at her breast,
To see the poor clouts in which He was dressed,
Then the three knights in velvet came in to adore
The poor ragged Infant, and knelt on the floor.

—Old English Carol

14th ANNUAL WORLDWIDE BIBLE READING

THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS

Again this year the American Bible Society is sponsoring Worldwide Bible Reading from Thanksgiving to Christmas. The readings listed below will be used by millions around the world.

The theme of this year's program is "Now in 1,100 Tongues" and celebrates the fact that at last, after more than 1,900 years, the Scriptures exist at least in part in 1,109 languages, of which 210 have entire Bibles and 270 more the New Testament.

NOVEMBER	
28 Thanksgiving	Micah 6:6-8
29	Psalms 90:1-17
30	Psalms 103:1-22

DECEMBER	
1 Advent Sunday	Romans 13:7-14
2	James 1:1-27
3	Genesis 1:1-31
4	Psalms 8:1-9
5	Psalms 139:1-24
6	Matthew 20:17-29
7	Ephesians 4:1-32
8 Universal Bible Sunday	Exodus 20:1-17
9	Matthew 22:15-40
10	Romans 8:14-39
11	I Corinthians 13:1-13
12	I John 4:1-21
13	Matthew 5:1-26
14	Matthew 5:27-48
15 Sunday	Matthew 6:1-18
16	Matthew 6:19-34
17	Matthew 7:1-29
18	John 3:1-17
19	Titus 2:1-15
20	Isaiah 11:1-9
21	Isaiah 53:1-12
22 Sunday	John 1:1-18
23	Hebrews 1:1-14
24	Matthew 1:18-25
25 Christmas	Matthew 2:1-12

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Christmas Hymns from All Nations

As with Gladness . . . (Dix, 1861) and *And the Herald Angels Sing* (Charles Wesley, 1739) combine words by English poets with music derived from German sources, the latter being from Mendelssohn. Also, Isaac Watts' *Joy to the World* (1719) is set to the music of Handel, born and educated in Germany but long a resident of England.

O Come, All Ye Faithful (*Adeste Fideles*) was written in France, but was first published in England (1751) by a Roman Catholic priest ministering there.

The visit of the great Episcopalian, Phillips Brooks of the United States, to Bethlehem at Christmastime inspired the words of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, set to music on short notice (1868) by his American organist and choirmaster. *Silent Night* (1818) too was of sudden inspiration, the poem by an Austrian, Joseph Mohr, and the music composed by his friend, Franz Gruber, within hours after first read the verses.

Away in a Manger comes to us from the Swedish Martin Luther. *The First Noel*, a folk song, oddly uses the French word but tune and verses are distinctively Old English.



A Child Is Promised

No. 1 in a Series: "Joy to the World"

Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 53; Luke 1:26-35

Senior-Young People (15-24 Years)

DECEMBER

Comments by Rev. Raymond C. Steinhart*

Considerations for the Leader

December is the month of candlelight services. You might begin a series of such services with this meeting. Secure several candles of different sizes. Light a small candle, relating the promises from the Word of God concerning the Promised Child. Have one candle burning in the back of the room to indicate the light of prophecy, or the prophets' candle. Increase the size of the candles as you develop the life of Christ from childhood to manhood. Each candle would depict areas of growth in His life.

Publicity

Mail out a "Get Ready for Christmas" letter giving time, topic, place, and leader of the meeting. Hang an old picture frame in your meeting room and place in it the topics for December and the leaders.

Program Outline

Pre-Prayer Service
Piano Prelude
Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
Scripture: Luke 1:26-35
Prayer Hymn: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"
Purposeful Prayers
Offering and Announcements
Special Music
Leader's Talk
Speakers 1, 2, and 3
The Aim and Life Problem
Discussion and Questions
Hymn: "Joy to the World"
Fellowship Circle and Benediction

Preparation for the Leader

Too often the Christian life is thought of as being devoid of any real enjoyment. It is not strange to find worldly people filled with such misconceptions for they have never learned to understand spiritual truth. Indeed, it is impossible for them to discern it.

Any people under bondage and tyranny look with joyful anticipation for their deliverer. When he comes and delivers his people joy sweeps the hearts of men.

The prophets in the Old Testament pointed the way. They looked for the One designated as "Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6b). They assured the people that the Promised Child, a deliverer, would be among the people for He would be the Son given.

When Jesus came to earth He brought salvation to us. The angel said to the shepherds, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). When Mary carried Jesus into the temple a just and devout man named Simeon took the Babe in his arms, and blessed God, saying, "Lord, now lettest

PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION

1. What is the thing you cherish most in your Christmas observance?
2. Because the Child of Promise came, what difference can be seen in us?
3. How can we translate Christmas into service as a society? As individuals?
4. Do you think those who waited for a deliverer were disappointed when the Promised Child came?
5. Is it possible to be truly satisfied unless Jesus Christ is born in us?

Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word: for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation" (Luke 2:29,30). Salvation is through Jesus Christ and Him alone.

When Jesus came into the world He brought peace to us. The angel said to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace." We can find peace of heart and soul through Him who gave Himself for us. To His disciples He said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

When Jesus came into the world He brought good will toward men. He taught His followers to love all men, including their enemies. Jesus was kind to all and set the example for His followers. We read, "For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (Ephesians 2:14,17,18).

When the Promised Child came into our world He brought light into a darkened world. As Simeon held the Babe he said, "For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation . . . a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel." Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12b). Light came into our world when Jesus came.

When the Promised Child came He brought deliverance to mankind—deliverance from sin, disease, sickness, and death. One day He stood in the synagogue in Nazareth and read from the book of the prophet these words concerning Himself, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the

brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Luke 4:18). Jesus brought deliverance from the power of sin and Satan. He said to the sick man afflicted with palsy, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He said these words, "I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, shall he live" (John 25:11b). How thankful we are for the coming of Jesus into our world.

First Speaker

In Luke 1:47 Mary confesses herself a sinner and acknowledges her need of a Saviour, proclaiming her personal interest in rejoicing in Him. In verse 49 Mary speaks with awe of the mighty God whose presence and sovereign power has been manifested in her, and who has wrought a miracle equal to that of the first creation.

Second Speaker

The shepherds who heard the announcement of the angels were men of a hardy and humble calling. They possessed true peace as we may infer from their later conduct with spiritual longings for the coming of Messiah. The calling and office of shepherds has been highly honored. Christ styles Himself the "Good Shepherd" and is also called the "Great Shepherd" of the sheep.

Third Speaker

From Luke 1:28 we gather an item of interest. Mary was visited by an angel. The angel said to her, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed thou among women." Never before had great an honor been paid to a mortal. Mary was God's chosen one on whom the full grace of God had been bestowed.

Leader's Climax

We see all our hopes for time and eternity completely realized in this Promised Child. Since He will reign over the world how wonderful it would be to have Him reign in our hearts.

Our Aim

To commit our all into the careful keeping power of One who has never failed to keep His promises.

Life Problem

Harry had part-time employment. He was unable to secure a full-time job due to physical reasons. He maintained that if he walked uprightly and lived in close fellowship with God and did his work to the best of his ability, God would be faithful in keeping His promise to supply every need. Nevertheless, he lived from hand to mouth and could not save any money. Would this indicate that God failed Harry?

The Project

Develop a manger scene to be displayed either on the church lawn or in several small windows along your main street, wishing all who see it a sincere greeting for Christmas season.

Bible Meditations

- M., Nov. 25. To His Arch Enemy. Genesis 3:15.
T., Nov. 26. For All the World. Genesis 12:2,3.
W., Nov. 27. As a Prophet. Deuteronomy 18:18,19.
T., Nov. 28. As a Ruler. Isaiah 9:6,7.
F., Nov. 29. As the Temple Builder. Zechariah 6:12,13,15a.
S., Nov. 30. As Lord. Malachi 3:1-3.
Sun., Dec. 1. Topic—A Child Is Promised. Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 53; Luke 1:26-35.

*Mr. Steinhart is pastor of the First Evangelical Congregational Church, Easton, Pennsylvania.

A Child Is Promised

No. 1 in a Series: "Joy to the World"

Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:26-35



Intermediate (12-14 Years)

DECEMBER 1

Comments by Dr. Raymond M. Veh*

OUR AIMS

1. To retrace in the Old Testament the promise of the Christ child.
2. To prepare our hearts for the truth of Christmas.
3. To have certainty that God's other promises likewise will be fulfilled.

For Your Worship

Include: *O Holy Night*
 All to Worship: Isaiah 9:2,6,7,
 Hymn: *Joy to the World*
 Prayer: That the gift of God in Jesus might become perfectly realized in our lives.
 Meditation: If a filmstrip projector is available use the kodachrome strip, "The Christmas Story" (27 frames, \$7.50) or "The Child of Bethlehem" (35 frames in black and white, \$2.50). Also excellent program suggestions may be found in *Worship Services for Youth* by Bays.

Hymn: *Silent Night*

Prostic
 Presentation of Topic and Discussion
 Selection of Christmas Project
 Benediction

Acrostic

Make letters in Christmas colors and have youth spell out CHRISTMAS:
 C is for Christ child, 'twas He who was born
 H is for Holy, that glorious dawn
 I is for Infant, a bonny wee thing
 S is for Shepherds, watching their sheep
 T is for Tidings, too joyous to keep
 M is for Magi, they came from the east
 A is for Angels, a million at least
 S is for Saviour, that's why He was born
 I sing loud His praises on Christmas morn.

For Your Poster

Clip from a back religious journal one of the well-known artistic concepts of the Christ child. Paste on cardboard. At side print "God in a Cradle. What a thought! Start the Christmas month in Christian En-avor today. Time—Place—"

God in a Cradle

The Apostle Paul in I Timothy 3:16 says at "without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh."

The Maker of heaven and earth became helpless Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes.

God in a cradle!

What a thought for contemplation! Do you hear the cooing of that baby voice? One day, with power and authority, that voice will bring deliverance to the demon-possessed and under the one word of "peace" the sea will cease its raging, for that little voice is the voice of the Christ of God.

Look at those little clasping hands. One day in mercy and in power those hands will be outstretched to touch the eyes of the blind and they will be made to see. A dying friend also, will feel the power of that touch

and be cleansed. By the same contact even the dead will be raised.

Do you see those tiny little feet? The day is not far distant when those feet will be pierced and nailed to a cross, for this Babe was born to die for the working out of the Father's eternal purpose in men's redemption.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Unto us is born a Saviour, not a dictator, not a president, not a financial baron. There is born a Babe who is God's answer to a man's deepest need. This Babe is the Saviour—one who can save from the guilt, the penalty, the power of sin. This Christmas we know more than ever before that He is King of kings and Lord of lords. We are awed afresh by the miracle of "God in a cradle."

Born To Be a King

A dirty oriental stable is the last place one would look for the birth of a king. This is the glory of His coming. It took place in such poor surroundings that no man since has been able to make humble birth an alibi for inglorious living. That manger-born King has made kings of all of us. Is not this a call to us to forget pride and splendor at this Christmas season and give ourselves to humble and self-forgetting service?

The Child of Mary was to be king. He was to be much more than that, for He was also to be prophet and priest. As we look forward to the anniversary of His birth, we should remind ourselves particularly that He was to be king. In speaking of His coming, the prophets described Him as one who would rule with great power, and Paul wrote, "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. . . ."

At Christmas we may forget that the Child of Bethlehem, symbol of innocence and the expression of God's great love, is sovereign. The innkeeper could shut Him out. When He stands at the door and knocks, the door can be kept shut against Him. But it is His right to reign in our lives, and until the

world bows in obedience to Him, it can find no real peace. The best preparation for Christmas is a full surrender to Him.

How Express Our Thankfulness?

Christmas speaks of God's love, of His forgiveness, of His help in transforming us into better boys and girls, men and women. It stirs the emotion of unselfishness. Like the shepherds, we also must "go" and "see" this mysterious child of Bethlehem. We must respond to the love of God by our trust, show our faith in His forgiveness by our confession and repentance, and look to Him for power to grow in Christian character. We must express our unselfish resolutions in unselfish deeds. Thank God for the Christmas vision of the Babe who became Saviour of mankind. Let us "go" to Bethlehem in our worship and "see"

What We Can Do

There are many things we can do at Christmas, each depending upon the conditions in our local communities and the extent of our finances. The following list is only suggestive and may be worked out accordingly.

1. Donate to the community fund.
 2. Donate to the church.
 3. Make up Christmas baskets to be used for needy of the church and community.
 4. Collect old clothing, books, newspapers, and magazines, either to sell for funds or to distribute.
 5. Pack a Christmas box for some home mission station or city mission.
 6. Hold a Christmas Party for the children's home—give gifts to the children.
 7. Hold services at the county home.
 8. Locate the shut-ins and see that they are remembered in some way.
 9. Transport the aged and infirm to the Christmas services.
 10. Send greetings to the sick, also baskets of fruit.
 11. Sing carols for those who enjoy it: the aged, infirm, shut-ins.
 12. Mail Christmas greetings to missionaries of our denomination.
 13. Send a CARE package or box of clothes to a family in Europe or Asia.
- Why not give your pastor and church a gift of "service." Write out a note to him: "My gift to the church is to help in your office all through January." Or "My gift is to run and fold mimeographed bulletins or letters whenever you need me." Or "My gift to the church is to aid in the department work." Such gifts of service would make pastors happy.

From God's Word

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| M., Nov. 25. | To His Arch Enemy. | Genesis 3:15. |
| T., Nov. 26. | For All the World. | Genesis 12:3. |
| W., Nov. 27. | As a Prophet. | Deuteronomy 18:18,19. |
| T., Nov. 28. | As a Ruler. | Isaiah 9:6,7. |
| F., Nov. 29. | As the Temple Builder. | Zechariah 6:12,13,15a. |
| S., Nov. 30. | As Lord. | Malachi 3:1-3. |
- Sun., Dec. 1. Topic—A Child Is Promised. Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:26-35.

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from YOUTH HYMNS, published by the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

Dr. Veh is editor of BUILDERS, Evangelical United Brethren youth magazine.



Christ, the Living Word

No. 2 in a Series: "Joy to the World"

John 1:1-14; 1 John 1:1

Senior-Young People (15-24 Years)

DECEMBER

Comments by Rev. Raymond C. Steinhart

Considerations for the Leader

This is Universal Bible Sunday. Have an arrangement of Bibles in your meeting room. Secure copies of various versions or translations of the Bible and place them around a picture of the head of Christ.

Ask at least three people to be ready to give a brief testimony as to what Christ, the Living Word, means to them. Perhaps you could secure some slides on some of the high points in the life of Christ and build your devotional program around them.

Publicity

Display a picture of Jesus in your church vestibule. Be sure to designate Him as "The Living Word." State time, topic, and leader of the meeting.

Program Outline

Pre-Prayer Service

Call to Worship:

Teach me to feel that Thou art always
nigh;

Teach me the struggles of the soul to
bear,

To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;

Teach me the patience of unanswered
prayer.

— George Croly

Hymn: *He Leadeth Me*

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Prayer Hymn: *Near to the Heart of God*

Silent Prayer, closed with prayer by leader

Speakers 1, 2, and 3

The Aim and Life Problem

Discussion and Questions

Hymn: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Benediction

Preparation for the Leader

God has never left Himself without a witness. There are four different revelations which He has given of Himself to man. Creation is His revelation in space. History is His revelation in time. The Bible is His revelation in language. Jesus Christ is His revelation in life. Of these the last is the greatest and most complete.

Power may overwhelm us and glory may dazzle us but neither can save us without love. It is only in the Book and in the Man, the written Word and the Living Word, that we learn that God is love. Jesus has been the revealer of God from the beginning and He will continue to be through-out eternity.

When we look at the Lord Jesus Christ we discover what God is like, for Jesus is the Son of God. Everything that He did on earth showed forth the Father. He was the "express image" of the Father. Jesus Christ showed forth God to the world perfectly. We want to see the Living Word in several relationships.

1. *He shows forth God's power over nature.* The Bible teaches us that God has all power over nature, for He is the Creator

PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION

1. Since Christ was the Living Word, did He ever use the written Word for personal help? (Consider His struggle in the wilderness when tempted by the Devil.)

2. The work of Jesus' ministry was three-fold—teaching, preaching, and healing. Why was it that the people referred to Him, the Living Word, as Master or Teacher?

3. Mention at least three things that Jesus spoke to men about God.

4. Are we guilty of neglecting the Word of God which alone can make us wise unto salvation? Why do we neglect it?

5. What makes you think in your own heart that you know Jesus Christ, the Living Word, as your Saviour and Lord?

of nature. When the Lord Jesus Christ was on earth, He had complete power over the winds and the waves of the sea. He was with His disciples when a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat in which they were seated was almost covered with waves. He was asleep in the midst of the storm. His disciples came to Him and cried saying, "Lord, save us: we perish." Then Jesus said, "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" Then we read, "He arose, and rebuked the wind and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!" Long before this happened, David had written this concerning God, "Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, Thou stillest them."

2. *Christ, the Living Word, showed forth God's power to heal disease.* The Bible teaches us that God is the One who heals our diseases. When the Lord Jesus was here on earth He showed forth God's power to heal disease. He healed the lepers; made the lame to walk; made the deaf to hear and the blind to see; cured fevers, palsy, and many other infirmities. He cured one woman who had been sick for 18 years and whose case no man could help. He was able to do this because He was God manifest in the flesh, and He showed forth God to us as He performed these mighty miracles.

3. *Christ, the Living Word, showed forth God's forgiveness of sin.* The Bible teaches us that God can and does forgive sins. We read, "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities." Today, many in the world are burdened by

the sense of their sins. But there is forgiveness. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." None can escape the divine verdict. None can excuse himself, sin cannot be excused—it must be forgiven. God can make the vilest clean. Our God is merciful and willing to pardon the guilty. All hope is lost when we turn from Christ the Living Word.

First Speaker

We are God's servants, gathering jewels and searching for treasures in the midst of a darkened world. Dangers are about us every hand, but we wear the Gospel armor to protect us. If we completely yield Him our pathway will shine brighter.

Second Speaker

We want to follow Christ, the Living Word. All that is necessary on our part is a yielded receptivity. His part is to work. Our part is to let Him work. It is a special joy to see Him complete in us His special work. We are His workmanship, created anew in Christ Jesus.

Third Speaker

Our love for Christ, the Living Word, will increase in proportion as our knowledge of Him is enlarged and our acquaintance with Him becomes more intimate. No one can behold Him without adoring Him.

Leader's Climax

We shall accomplish so much more when we come to the place where we give Christ the Living Word, His rightful place in our lives.

Our Aim

To make every day a day of closer living and richer fellowship with Him who eternally loves us.

Life Problem

Mary, a charming young lady with a keen mind, was a university graduate. She developed a religion of her own. She if one had a keen mind, used it and fed it and a good body and took care of it that was the first major point in any work while religion. She resented bitterly when anyone spoke to her about her need of Jesus Christ. She always stated that church was for weak people. If people didn't have a strong mind and a strong body to resist temptation to do evil, they needed a church and the influence of people whose combined strength could help them to overcome. She was told one day that since this is but one true Christ there could be only one true opinion concerning Him. She stated she was perfectly satisfied with her opinion. How would you answer her?

Presentation of the Project

Plan now for an extensive Christmas party. Make a list of the unchurched youth in your local community and invite them as your special guests to this party. Plan an interesting program. Use Christmas decorations.

From the Book of Books

- | | | | |
|------------|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| M., Dec. | 2. | God Speaks through Him. | Hebrews 1:1-3. |
| T., Dec. | 3. | A True Expression of God. | John 1:16-18. |
| W., Dec. | 4. | Described in Revelation. | Revelation 19:11-16. |
| T., Dec. | 5. | God's Messenger. | John 6:38-40. |
| F., Dec. | 6. | The Truth. | John 14:6,7. |
| S., Dec. | 7. | The Word in the World. | John 5:37-39. |
| Sun., Dec. | 8. | Topic—Christ, the Living Word. | John 1:1-14; 1 John 1:1. |

Christ, the Living Word

No. 2 in a Series: "Joy to the World"

John 1:1-14; 1 John 1:1



Intermediate (12-14 Years)

DECEMBER 8

Comments by Dr. Raymond M. Veh

Your Program

Use dark blue poster board or a drape on wall to make a backdrop. In front of place a table covered with a cloth on which are massed Christmas greens.

Prepare two large stars and cut each one into five perfectly fitting pieces. If flannelgraph is used, glue a piece of flannel to the back of each piece.

In the center and toward the top of the background place a picture of Jesus. Leave enough space for the program participants to assemble the stars a little below the picture on each side. Focus a spotlight on the fire arrangement for added brilliance.

Program Outline

First Musical Prelude: *Silent Night*

Scripture to worship: Isaiah 9:6,7

Intermediate Quartet or Chorus: *The First Noel*

Reader: Many in the world today are seeking the Christ. The only way they have of finding Him is through us as we tell the glorious story of His birth, death, and resurrection, and as we live before the world a Christlike life. If we are to exemplify Christ there are certain characteristics which will make each of us like a star, shining in the darkness of this sinful world to point the way to Jesus (quote 1 Peter 2:21).

Prepare ten Intermediates take their places the front of the room in a V-shape, with a table and poster forming the tip of the V. As each of the first five quotes or reads a Scripture reference he places upon the flannelgraph his part of the star, fitting it in to form the whole. The second group of five do likewise to form a star on the opposite side of the poster.)

First Intermediate: Jesus was sinless (Hebrews 4:15).

Second Intermediate: Jesus was faithful (John 17:4).

Third Intermediate: Jesus was loving (John 13:1).

Fourth Intermediate: Jesus was forgiving (Luke 23:34).

Fifth Intermediate: Jesus was a man of prayer (Mark 1:35).

Sixth Intermediate: Jesus was obedient to His mother and Joseph (Luke 2:51).

Seventh Intermediate: Jesus was obedient to God (John 4:34).

Eighth Intermediate: Jesus was busy about His work (Matthew 4:23).

Ninth Intermediate: Jesus was a good citizen (Mark 12:17).

Tenth Intermediate: Jesus was regular in worship (Luke 4:16).

Reader: The story is told that after Leonardo da Vinci had finished his great picture of the Last Supper he called his best friend in to see it before exhibiting it publicly. As his friend looked at it, his first words were, "O, what a wonderful goblet in the hands of the Christ!" With one stroke of his brush Leonardo da Vinci

OUR AIMS

1. To understand that the Bible is God's written word.
2. To see that Jesus is God's Message as well as God's Messenger.
3. To discover that we cannot truly know God, or about God, except as He is revealed in Jesus Christ, the Living Word.

QUESTIONS

1. When did the New Testament come into written form?
2. Why is the Bible never "out of date"?
3. How does the Bible rate in literature?
4. How do we know that God speaks to us in the Bible?
5. How can Junior Highs find time to read the Bible today? (Emphasize the Quiet Hour.)
6. Does the ease with which we can secure the Bible cause us to appreciate it more or less?
7. What books best portray Christ as the Living Word?

blotted out the goblet from the picture. "I would have you see nothing except the face of the Christ," he said. As disciples we are showing to the world the Christ. Do our lives and faces shine forth as stars to point the way to Him?

Poem: *The Spirit of Christmas* by Eva D. Woodward.

Christmas brought a star to men,
Powerful, gracious, bright;
Leading to the newborn king
Born that holy night.

★ ★ ★

Christmas brought the angels near,
Quite a lovely throng,
And their message of good will
Made a glorious song.

★ ★ ★

Christmas brought the carols sweet,
Sung with heart and voice,
Helping all who try to sing
Truly to rejoice.

★ ★ ★

So the Christmas spirit comes
Through each avenue,
Hail the Christ who comes to all;
Now be born anew.

—Permission BUILDERS

Prayer: That our lives might be as shining stars to point the way to Christ.

Song (last two stanzas): *Silent Night*

Benediction

Unspeakable Gift

God's gift of His Son to us is called an

Bible Passages

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| M., Dec. 2. | God Speaks through Him. | Hebrews 1:1-3. |
| T., Dec. 3. | A True Expression of God. | John 1:16-18. |
| W., Dec. 4. | Described in Revelation. | Revelation 19:11-16. |
| T., Dec. 5. | God's Messenger. | John 6:38-40. |
| F., Dec. 6. | The Truth. | John 14:6,7. |
| S., Dec. 7. | The Word in the World. | John 5:37-39. |
| Sun., Dec. 8. | Topic—Christ, the Living Word. | John 1:1-14; 1 John 1:1. |

"unspeakable gift" by Paul. By that he means to say that he cannot satisfactorily express its value in words. In II Corinthians 8:9 he speaks of God's Christmas gift thus: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

It is an unspeakable gift that God has given us in Christ Jesus. But that doesn't mean that we can't speak about it! With the telling of others about this gift will come true good cheer, not only for Christmas day but for all the days of the new year.

The Gospel Retained and Written

Although unwritten, the Gospel of Jesus spread swiftly through all the lands bordering the Mediterranean Sea. The word "gospel" did not then refer to the story of Jesus' life. Rather, it was the good news of salvation, of "changed men and changed lives" as taught by Jesus. Many of Jesus' teachings were retained in the memories of those who had known Him and been with Him in Palestine. Far more thrilling and authoritative than any written scroll were words from the mouths of those who had actually seen the Master and listened to Him teach. Can you picture the eagerness in any little Christian community when word came that one who had known Jesus was near by? Can you sense the reverent stillness, the earnest effort to miss not one word and to remember each priceless teaching, as such a person recounted what he knew of Jesus?

Why did forty years elapse before men began to write down what they knew of Jesus? In part it was due to the widespread use by Christian groups of the Jewish Scriptures, our Old Testament. Reading in the light of their Christian beliefs, there seemed revealed to them the true significance of Jesus. In the writings of the prophets they could trace the preparation for His coming and even find foretold much of His earthly ministry. For a long time the Old Testament seemed enough.

There was another reason, stemming directly from the apocalyptic writings of the Scriptures. If Jesus were indeed, as they believed in all certainty, the promised Messiah, then very soon He would come again, bringing in that "day of judgment" which the prophets had pictured so glowingly. Of what use was it to labor over lengthy scrolls when the time was so short? Those first Christians lived in daily anticipation of their Lord's return.

At last these Christians began to realize that those who had actually known Jesus, those upon whom they had depended for the oral gospel, would soon be dead. With their passing might go most of what men knew about Jesus. His life and His teachings must now with all haste be put into writing.

Our Scripture speaks of "In the beginning was the Word." It shows Jesus growing out of and fulfilling the old Jewish religion. What a wonderful gift God's Word is to us!



Carols of Many Nations

No. 3 in a Series: "Joy to the World"

Luke 2:8-14; Psalm 9:11; Isaiah 30:29

Senior-Young People (15-24 Years)

DECEMBER

Comments by Rev. Raymond C. Steinhart

Considerations for the Leader

Perhaps before your meeting you could arrange a carol sing in front of your church. You might visit a few shut-ins and sing for them, hurrying back to the church to complete your service.

Ask several young people to look up information about a particular Christmas carol. After each one reports, the group can sing the carol assigned to him.

Publicity

Put out pictures to represent different nations, races, and creeds. Under the various pictures write a carol. Give time, place, and leader of your meeting.

Program Outline

Pre-Prayer Service
Period of Meditation with Quiet Music
History of *Silent Night*
Carol: *Silent Night*
Scripture: Luke 2:8-14
History of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
Prayer Time
Announcements and Offering
Special Music
Leader's Talk
Speakers 1, 2, and 3
Aim and Life Problem
Discussion and Questions
History of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
Carol: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
Benediction

Preparation for the Leader

This is the third topic in a series of four in the unit, "Joy to the World."

Christianity is a singing religion. It came on the wings of music. Wherever Christianity goes and is received there comes with it a joy unspeakable and full of glory. The recipient of Christianity sings a new song. The Christmas season is a time of great joy. People everywhere sing the carols of their native lands.

Let us go to Denmark. Christmas here is a time of great joy. From the day before Christmas until after New Year's Day there is little or no work. The church occupies a prominent place in the season's activities. In the Christmas service at the church the Christmas story is told and the carols are sung.

The Holy Birth Festivals, as the Chinese call Christmas, have penetrated more than a thousand miles into the interior of China. Evergreens, holly, and bright paper decorations adorn churches and homes. On the white walls are large Chinese characters meaning "Peace and Joy." In the front of the church stands the tree of life, as the Chinese call the Christmas tree. The Christmas story is told, and after the service carolers go along the road before dawn singing Christmas songs.

In Paris Christmas is hardly noticed except in the churches. But in the French

PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION

1. Jesus was recognized as a teacher. What did He teach about prayer?
2. What did Jesus teach about forgiveness of sin, and about the forgiveness of our enemies?
3. Why are the hymns of the church so full of enduring quality? About how long does a popular secular tune last?
4. How shall we plan to make this Christmas truly merry?
5. Does the Christmas story provide us with an opportunity to present Christ to the people? What would you consider some good approaches coming out of the Christmas story?

provinces, far from the cities, the day is devoutly and joyously observed. Several days before Christmas the children go into the fields and woods to gather laurel, holly, and bright berries to use in building a manger on Christmas Eve. After the yule log is lighted, the children light up the manger with small candles and sing Christmas carols.

In Czechoslovakia the churches are beautifully decorated with evergreens and Christmas trees, as well as with scenes showing the manger, the wise men, and the shepherds. The Christmas celebration lasts three days. On the second day groups of children go caroling from house to house, singing among other carols this one:

"Be ye joyful, earth and sky, hallelujah; Unto us, God's Son came nigh, hallelujah, He for our salvation.

"He, the great Incarnate Word, hallelujah; Jesus Christ doth help afford, hallelujah; He for our salvation."

Let's take a glance at some of our familiar carols:

Silent Night. This appears to be everyone's favorite. It gloriously sets forth the holy birth. This comes to us from Austria, written by Joseph Mohr of Salzburg about 1818. The music was composed by Franz Gruber, a schoolmaster from Ansdorf. It is short, but every word adds up to rich meaning and beauty.

O Little Town of Bethlehem. This carol was written in 1868 by a clergyman from Boston, Phillips Brooks. He wrote it after a visit to the Holy Land during which he spent Christmas Eve in Bethlehem. The organist of his church, Lewis A. Redner,

wrote the music which so perfectly fit the words.

O Come, All Ye Faithful. A Latin hymn from the 17th century, it was translated by Frederick Oakeley in 1841. The melody is from Wades Cantus Dweise, 1751. "Ad Fideles" is familiar everywhere. Here we are invited to come to Him and to adore Him.

When Jesus Christ came into our world as a babe He set the music ringing. He started great choirs singing. He is the object of all our praise and adoration. He has put a song into our hearts. We can sing joyfully.

First Speaker

All that is of enduring worth in the world today is traceable to the fact that some two thousand years ago the Babe of Bethlehem was born. Today, those of us who know His saving and keeping power lift our voices in gratitude and praise. We thank God for His unspeakable gift, Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Second Speaker

The Lord Jesus Christ was born to save us. We know that our redemption is through the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We marvel at His great love, even when we were loveless and dead in trespasses and sins. He redeemed us and now we sing praises.

Third Speaker

In our childhood days we often wondered what God was like. Fanciful indeed were our conceptions of Him. Before God made manifest in the flesh in the person of His Son, vague also were the world's ideas as to the likeness of God. Since Jesus Christ has come, we no longer need surmise or conjecture about what God is like. Only as we know the Son of God do we know the Father.

Leader's Climax

Our lives can be an everlasting sacrifice, setting forth the glories of His redemption and delivering power. He is our song.

Our Aim

To live each day in such a loving and sacrificial way that each note in our melody will be clear and convincing.

Life Problem

Bill was a devout Christian. He was a son in his life. He lived a separated life. But when he was attacked by his friends and classed as a "goody-goody," he weakened. He went back into sin and the joy of his salvation. He feels now that he is not happy but that the Christian way it should be lived, is impossible. How can we direct and help Bill?

Project

Make a list of the needy and deserving people of your church who would appreciate a little Christmas cheer and prepare them a Christmas treat plus carol singing.

From the Book of Books

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| M., Dec. 9. | The Song of Mary. | Luke 1:46-55. |
| T., Dec. 10. | Sing God's Praises. | Psalm 96:1-6. |
| W., Dec. 11. | A Sign of Joy. | James 5:18. |
| T., Dec. 12. | Teaching by Singing. | Colossians 3:15,16. |
| F., Dec. 13. | Sing to One Another. | Ephesians 5:19,20. |
| S., Dec. 14. | Sing unto the Lord. | Isaiah 42:10-12. |
| Sun., Dec. 15. | Topic—Carols of Many Nations. | Luke 2:8-14; Psalm 9:11; Isaiah 30:29. |

Carols of Many Nations

No. 3 in a Series: "Joy to the World"

Luke 2:8-14; Psalm 9:11; Isaiah 30:29



Intermediate (12-14 Years)

DECEMBER 15

Comments by Dr. Raymond M. Veh

the Leader

Is it the custom in your society to have a Christmas carol service every year? If it is, will you know from past experience what to do and how to do it. If you have never tried a service, you have missed some of the duty of Christmas.

You can help to emphasize the truly Christian spirit in Christmas if you make it that every service in which you have a part carries the message of good will, of good news that Jesus taught.

Try to make your service quiet and beautiful. Let each part follow along without announcement, so that you have a connected service. If you use hymnals, write the numbers of the hymns on the blackboard in the rear you will use them. You might have words of carols mimeographed.

Here are some books which will be helpful:

Christmas Carols from Many Countries by Coleman and Jorgenson; *Fifty Christmas Carols of All Nations*, by Marzo (Willis Music Co., Cincinnati, Ohio); *Noels* by Marx and Anne Oberndorfer (FitzSimons Co.); *Songs of Christmas* by Martha Bayly Cannon (Baker), a dramatic program centered around the origin of several of the best known Christmas carols.

Recordings of Christmas music might be used very effectively. No doubt there are those in your church who would loan you some good records suitable for your worship service. There are a number of especially fine albums available at your music store.

For Your Poster

Sketch bows of firs on each side of a sheet of cardboard. Spatter paint and colored crystals can make the edges glisten. Draw a few bars of music at top. Print Old Carols and New. Sing them Tonight Christian Endeavor."

The Origin of Carols

The singing of carols is inseparable from the spirit of Christmas. Historians tell us that as early as the year 129 the Bishop of Rome started the custom of celebrating Christmas through the singing of carols.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo in its many versions was no doubt the first Christmas hymn in the church. However, the vast bulk of carols, it matters little of what country—England, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain—originated with and belong to the people. The folk song is a part of the minstrelsy as distinguished from the music of the church in medieval times. As these tunes became popular, they were used for sacred or secular texts indiscriminately. The carol as a Christmas jubilee dates back to the early religious services and signifies some new attempts made by the early church to combine the religious and the secular music of the people.

OUR AIMS

1. To see how "Christianity is a singing religion."
2. To trace back some of our well-beloved Christmas carols to their beginnings.
3. To get acquainted with new carols that are familiar in other parts of the world.

QUESTIONS

1. What pictures of Christ are seen in the various carols?
2. What makes Christmas a true joy?
3. What basic elements of worship are found in the worship of the shepherds, the wise men, the angels, and ours today?
4. What is your favorite carol? Why?

For instance, as far back as St. Francis, the people participated in a dramatic event when, in his church in Greccio on Christmas Eve in 1224, he placed a wax doll in a replica of the Infant's cradle and children brought gifts, young people presented songs and dances, and the older people paid tribute to the newborn King. Thus, the two classes of music, sacred and secular, at an early date joined in celebrating the event of the nativity. Following St. Francis' example, it became the habit of priests to place a cradle containing either a living baby or a wax doll in the chancel of the church and, in other ways, to try to teach simple people by means of pictorial representations.

Palestrina, the foremost composer of early church music, used old carol tunes as the main themes for great polyphonic compositions. Probably the most popular of his Christmas compositions is *Adoramus Te*, which is sung by adult choirs all over the civilized world.

During the Reformation, Martin Luther took many of the folk tunes of the people and used sacred texts. No Christmas season is complete without his setting of *Away in a Manger*, which has all the simplicity of the folk song, the tenderness of the lullaby, the solemnity of the hymn, and the message of the Christmas season.

Carols We Know Well

The following carols come to us from four different countries.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. This is one of the best known of the six thousand hymns of Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church. The music comes from a cantata by Mendelssohn.

From the Bible

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| M., Dec. 9. | The Song of Mary. | Luke 1:46-55. |
| T., Dec. 10. | Sing God's Praises. | Psalm 96:1-6. |
| W., Dec. 11. | A Sign of Joy. | James 5:18. |
| T., Dec. 12. | Teaching by Singing. | Colossians 3:15,16. |
| F., Dec. 13. | Sing to One Another. | Ephesians 5:19,20. |
| S., Dec. 14. | Sing unto the Lord. | Isaiah 42:10-12. |
| Sun., Dec. 15. | Topic—Carols of Many Nations. | Luke 2:8-14; Psalm 9:11; Isaiah 30:29. |

Silent Night. There are a number of stories about the origin of this hymn. One tells us that late in the afternoon on the day before Christmas in 1818 Joseph Mohr, priest in a little Austrian village, was inspired to write the words of this hymn. Just after he had completed them his friend Franz Gruber, the organist, rushed in to tell him that the organ in the church had broken down. Knowing that it was impossible for the choir to sing the usual Christmas Eve service without accompaniment, Mohr suggested to his friend that he set his words to music and have the choir sing them to the accompaniment of his violin. The simplicity and perfect blending of music and words made this hymn an immediate favorite.

The First Noel. This carol came to us from France by way of England. The word "Noel" is French and means Christmas. In France Christmas is celebrated as a family occasion, entire families going to church together, singing "Noel, Noel," as they go.

O Little Town of Bethlehem. Phillips Brooks, one of the outstanding preachers of America in the nineteenth century, is remembered most for this hymn. It was on Christmas Eve of 1866 that Brooks climbed a hill, watched the shepherds caring for their sheep and looked over the quiet little town of Bethlehem nestled beneath a starry oriental sky. He was inspired to write this hymn. Three years later he presented it to the children in his church school. The organist of his church composed the music.

America's Carol Contribution

America has recently begun to provide some quaint, beautiful carols to warm hearts at Christmas. Their pastoral melodic flavor and the simple, mystical contemplation of their verse make them unique in carol literature.

Among the most beautiful and most moving of these folk songs are: *I Wonder as I Wander* from Hill Songs collected and arranged by John Niles; the Negro spiritual, *Around the Glory Manger*, set by Lawrence W. James; *O Mary Went A-Journeying*, and *Jesus Born in Bethleah*, set by Annabel M. Buchanan.

Most of these Christmas folk songs light up the hearts of worshippers with such tender lines as are found in the verses of this spiritual:

O Mary, what you goin' to name that pretty little baby?

Glory, glory, glory to that newborn King!
"Some call him one thing, I think
I'll call him Jesus"

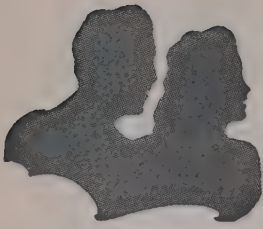
Glory, glory, glory to that newborn king!
"Some call him one thing, I think
I'll call him Immanuel"

Glory, glory, glory to that newborn king!
But grandeur is found among them all,
too, and caroling completes the circle of worship sentiments as seen in the stirring song, *Wasn't That a Mighty Day When Jesus Was Born!*

"Be Born in Us"

No. 4 in a Series: "Joy to the World"

Colossians 3:1-11; Matthew 2:1-12



Senior-Young People (15-24 Years)

DECEMBER

Comments by Rev. Raymond C. Steinhart

Considerations for the Leader

Consult your pastor for some ideas on making this a top meeting. He might be willing to give a five minute talk on his experience of the new birth through Christ.

Try to have your church choir present at this meeting to sing a special number or two. This would also be a good time to plan a surprise for your pastor. A small gift of appreciation goes a long way.

Publicity

Secure a manger scene and build around it your ideas of promotion for this meeting. Emphasize that it is the Christmas meeting of the society.

Program Outline

Pre-Prayer Service

Quiet Music

Call to Worship: "The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him."

Hymn: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Christmas Carol: *Away in a Manger*

Prayer

Announcements and Offering

Special Music

Leader's Talk

Speakers 1, 2, and 3

The Aim and Life Problem

Discussion and Questions

Hymn: *May Jesus Christ Be Praised*

Benediction

Preparation for the Leader

This is the final topic in a series of four revolving about Jesus Christ, our excellent Lord and Saviour. This topic might briefly describe the nativity, but it must press on to that personal nativity where Christ is born in us.

The wise men, led by the star, found Jesus. Wise indeed is the man who follows Jesus Christ in genuine conversion and definite service. When we take up our cross and follow Him we see Him as the *Obedient One*. "Behold my servant," Jesus was the ideal servant. He came from heaven to do His Father's will and in every experience of life He said, "Not my will, but Thine be done." Before He came into the world He said, "Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God, yea, Thy law is within my heart." At the beginning of His earthly service He said, "I must be about my Father's business." At the close of His life He said, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do." When He is born in us we come to know Him as the *Obedient One* and we in His power and strength seek to follow in His way.

This Christ of God, who is born in us, is indeed the *Chosen One*. "Behold my servant whom I have chosen." This was an eternal choice, made before the foundation of the world. It was a choice constrained by

PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION

1. What is the simplest way for us to tell others about Christ being born in us?
2. What are some of the evidences of the new life in Christ?
3. What shall we expect of the new Christian, as far as his life of service for Christ within the church is concerned?
4. What can your society do to bring the claims of Christ to others?
5. What would happen in your church if every member professing new life in Christ were truly and fully yielded and spent himself for Christ and the church? Who would be able to tell the results?

infinite grace. Although Jesus was disallowed of men, He was chosen of God and precious. How comforting it is to be assured that our salvation and service do not rest upon our choice of God, but rather upon His choice of us. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." He wants us to go out and bring forth much fruit.

When He is born in us we find Him to be the *Sympathizing One*. We may not have a friend on earth to whom we can go, but we can always pour our sorrows into the sympathizing ear of our Divine Friend who sticketh closer than a brother. When He is born in us God's wonderful love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given to them that obey Him. We become less critical of others and endeavor by God's grace to help them and lift them up so they will come to see new fullness of life in Jesus Christ, our *Sympathizing Saviour*.

When He is born in us His Word assures us that He is the *Conquering One*. His truth shall triumph. He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied. He came the first time as a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He will come the second time, attended by angels, in the glory of His Father, conquering and to conquer.

Only those who have proved His grace can appreciate His worth. We who have tasted that the Lord is good and gracious will some day cast our crowns before Him and cry out, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou hast created all things and for Thy pleasure they are and were created."

Christian Endeavor members are daily trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for

strength. As our day so shall our strength be. Much time with Him in private rest in great power in public. When He is born in us only God knows what rich possibilities are ours through Him.

First Speaker

The story of the nativity is rich in meaning. In it you find three things. First there is a word of comfort. The shepherds were frightened at the vision. But the very words spoken to them were "Fear not." They have sinned and come short of the glory of God. But Christ has come to make atonement for all our sins. When we have truly repented we need not fear for God blot out our sins, never to be remembered against us any more.

Second Speaker

In the second place the story of the nativity has in it a word of hope. "I bring you good tidings of great joy." There is no message like this to bring comfort in time of sorrow. No matter how hard the experience, we still have the joy of salvation because the Lord Jesus was born as our Saviour.

Third Speaker

In the third place the story of the nativity has in it a word of salvation. The Babe in Bethlehem's manger was called the Saviour. The matter of salvation is a very personal matter. Jesus Christ came to seek and save the lost. He made peace through the blood of His cross.

Leader's Climax

While we are enjoying many pleasures at this joyful season, let us not forget that we owe them to the gift of God in Christ. Let us do what we can to bring Him to the attention of others.

Our Aim

To examine our own hearts before Christmas to see if we have been true to our high calling in Christ Jesus.

Life Problem

Robert cannot grasp the idea that he cannot earn his own salvation. He feels that he had so much talent and ability to do for God that it was not necessary for Christ to die for him. He believes that at the end of the line you enter heaven if your good deeds outweigh your evil deeds. How can we bring Robert into the true light?

Project

This is a good time to plan for a Christmas Night service. Consult with your pastor to arrange for a three-fold program. From 9:00 to 10:00 show a sound film dealing with some very special missionary work of the church. From 10:00 to 11:00 plan a social hour with light refreshments and a program of interest for all who come. From 11:00 to midnight arrange a worship service. Members of the society can assist the pastor who will bring the message of the evening.

Messages from the Bible

- M., Dec. 16. Born through the Word. I Peter 1:22,23.
T., Dec. 17. Born through Faith. Ephesians 3:17-19.
W., Dec. 18. Living in Love. I John 3:23,24.
Th., Dec. 19. Necessary to Salvation. John 3:1-6.
F., Dec. 20. Possible to All. Revelation 3:20,21.
S., Dec. 21. The Life I Live. Galatians 2:19,20
Sun., Dec. 22. Topic—"Be Born in Us." Colossians 3:1-11; Matthew 2:1-12.

"Be Born in Us"

No. 4 in a Series: "Joy to the World"

Ephesians 3:17-19; Galatians 2:19-21; Philippians 2:5-11



Intermediate (12-14 Years)

DECEMBER 22

Comments by Dr. Raymond M. Vohs

Leader's Preparation

On a day when the spirit of Christmas is in danger of being crowded out, it is all for us to take time to delve beneath the surface of things and to discover anew the treasures which Christmas holds for us. Because of this meeting, your young people could be brought to consecrate themselves anew to that cause for which Jesus came to this world. As leader, you will play a large part in setting the tone of this meeting and developing an atmosphere of worship and consecration. Since this meeting takes on the nature of worship service, you can help to create an atmosphere of reverence through the arrangement of your room. A good picture of the nativity, an open Bible, and candles could be used effectively in a worship service.

Source Materials

Stories Woven About the First Christmas: "Even Unto Bethlechem," by Henry Van Dyke (Charles Scribner's Sons). "A New Christmas Legend," by J. Bradford Pelly (Presto Music Times). "The Return of the Wise Man," by Winifred Kirkland (Heming H. Revell). "The Sad Shepherd," by Henry Van Dyke (in *Christmas in Modern Story*, The Century Co.). "The Shepherd Who Didn't Go," by Jay T. Stocking (from *The City That Was Never Reached*, Meigs Publishing Co.). "The Shepherd's Story," by Washington Gladden (in *Christmas Stories and Legends*, Meigs Publishing Co.). *Christmas in Modern Life:* "Christmas," by Zona Gale (The Macmillan Co.). "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens. "The Tallest Orphan," by M. E. Sangster (Round Table Press). "No Room at the Inn," by Anna Ferber (Doubleday-Doran & Co.). "The Romance of a Christmas Card," by Kate Douglas Wiggin (Houghton Mifflin Co.). "So This is Christmas," by Temple Bailey (The Penn Publishing Co.).

For Your Poster

On a cardboard draw a Christmas tree at the side. At center bottom draw an "open Bible." Print at right top, "Christmas and Us." At center place "C U in C E tonite."

The Real Meaning of Christmas

That Christ should be given a human body by a birth is consistent with the human form which He assumed. That He could have been born in a manner different from the usual human birth is to be expected, and so He was. He was born of a virgin. The coming of the Christ child meant different things to those who had a part in the story. To Mary the birth of her first child was a source of wonder and hope and dreams for the future (Luke 2:9; 1:46-55). To the shepherds on the hillside it was a message of peace and good will to all men, a cause for great joy (Luke 2:14-18). To the wise men it was the fulfillment of dream, the coming of a king long proph-

OUR AIMS

1. To discover the real meaning of Christmas.
2. To see how the life of Jesus takes on meaning and power when Christ dwells in the believer by His spirit.
3. To know what it means to experience Christ "born in us."

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Christ come as a little babe?
2. How complete was Jesus' self-dedication? How complete is ours?
3. What is meant by "being born again"?
4. What is meant by "be ye therefore perfect"?
5. What is the cost of following Jesus?
6. Can youth today be truly happy without knowing Christ?
7. What can make Christmas have a constant place in the lives of youth?

esied (Matthew 2:1-11).

To Herod it was a threat to position and power (Matthew 2:3,7,8,16,17).

To the jostling crowds of Bethlehem it meant nothing unusual. If they were aware of the birth at all, it was simply another child born to peasant parents. Great numbers had been longing for the coming of the Messiah. Yet few recognized His coming.

A little child looking at a large portrait of her long-absent father was led to exclaim, "Oh, if only daddy would break through and talk to us!" That is just what God did at Christmas—He "broke through" in the person of Jesus and now we can understand and know God better. One of the names ascribed to Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning God with us (Matthew 1:23). A number of times Jesus reminded His disciples of this great meaning in His life (John 14:6-11).

Christmas is the dawning of light, a light which will lead men to God (John 14:6; Luke 1:79). The tragedy is that today as then men do not recognize and follow this light (John 1:4,5; 3:19-21).

The birth of the Christ child was the gift of love from God (John 3:16). It was love come down from God, tender and beautiful as the stories of Christmas. But it was also an expression of a love that was strong and determined in the face of wrong and death, a love which followed the way of the cross.

The angel message of peace and good will is one which we dare not forget in our day. The birth of the Christ child was the coming of a new way of life—a way of love.

Scripture Portions

- M., Dec. 16. Born through the Word. I Peter 1:22,23.
T., Dec. 17. God with Us. Matthew 1:22-25.
W., Dec. 18. Living in Love. I John 3:23,24.
T., Dec. 19. Necessary to Salvation. John 3:1-6.
F., Dec. 20. Possible to All. Revelation 3:20,21.
S., Dec. 21. Hid in Christ. Colossians 3:1-4.
Sun., Dec. 22. Topic—"Be Born in Us." Ephesians 3:17-19; Galatians 2:19-21; Philippians 2:5-11.

Why Christ Came

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (I Timothy 1:15). The teaching of the Scriptures is that He came to die on the cross in order to save sinners. It is true that He has set every Christian an example in living. But that was not the main reason for His coming. He came to give His life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). He offered one sacrifice for sins that is sufficient forever (Hebrews 10:10-12).

Moffat's translation of Luke 1:78, "Who will cause the Dawn to visit us from on high?" is a beautiful and suggestive illustration of what Jesus' coming has meant to the world. The dawn comes silently and gradually, but surely, and when it comes it dispels the darkness, all things are clear, and hope bursts forth from the heart. The gracious presence of Christ has been as the dawn: quietly but irresistibly He has moved into the life of the world, bringing light and hope.

Be Born in Us

Jesus came as the Saviour of the world." He came also to be my Saviour, your Saviour. We can say, "I know whom I have believed" when we let Him forgive our sins and possess our hearts.

For Christians there is nothing greater than the spiritual presence of Jesus in our lives. He was not closer to Peter, James, and John than He can be to us. If He should come in the future in physical form, His bodily presence, remote and transitory as it would certainly be, could not possibly mean as much to us as His spiritual presence now day by day.

Paul strikes a deeper note when he preaches "Christ in me."

In our Scripture for this topic we can have assurance of "God in us." This Christmas day will you let Christ be "born anew in you"?

"Prayer for Christmas"

by E. F. George, D.D.

We praise Thee, O God, for the wonder of Christmas;
For singing of angels that Bethlehem night;
For shepherds amazed, and for worshipping Wise Men
Led out of the east by the Star's fiery light.

We thank Thee, O God, for the beauty of Christmas,
For carolling singers and candles aflame,
For tinsel and holly and sweet, spicy balsam,
For laughter of children on crisp winter air.

We praise Thee, O God, for the meaning,
For the Babe in the manger, Thy own Gift of love;
For promise of victory o'er sin's domination,
For life everlasting, in heaven above.

We pray Thee, O God, for the blessing of Christmas,
For peace in our hearts, to all men of good will,
For joy that Thou givest to all who adore Him,
For Love like Thine own, our whole lives to fill.

—Permission Builders



Resolved: For Christ and the Church

Romans 12:1-8

Senior-Young People (15-24 Years)

DECEMBER

Comments by Dr. Samuel S. Haas*

Aim

To show how the opportunity of a new year can best be used to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service.

Introduction

Henry Van Dyke, the author of the beloved Christmas tale *The Story of the Other Wise Man*, has written a bit of poetry which contains valuable advice for the living of the new year for Christ and His Church. Being based on the passage found in Romans 12, it will also serve to sum up the main points of this chapter in an easy-to-remember fashion. The poem reads:

"Four things a man must learn to do
If he would keep his record true,
To think without confusion, clearly,
To love his fellowman sincerely,
To act from highest motives purely,
To trust in God and heaven securely."

The mind, the heart, the will, the soul, all that truly comprise man, are brought into focus and each given a motive and direction which, if exercised with determination, will produce results that will effect a transformation in one's life and living.

The Mind

"To think without confusion, clearly." It would surprise most of us to realize just how much of our living is done without thinking. Very often it takes a sudden jolt to make us aware of this.

Dressing himself one morning in his usual mechanical fashion a certain professor began to button his vest. Unexpectedly his habit pattern failed. His fingers went through their usual motions but the anticipated result was not forthcoming. His mind began to seek for an explanation. It was then that he discovered that his young daughter had sewed shut several buttonholes. He thereby learned for himself a truth long known, that fingers can remember.

He began to test this new-found knowledge on his students. He discovered that as long as his students were permitted to do the things they had always done, their minds would not work. It was only when he figuratively "sewed up their buttonholes" by hiding their notebooks, giving unannounced quizzes and similar strategies that any thinking was done.

The mind is indeed an emergency organ that relegates everything possible to other functions of the body as long as it is able. It is only when the old order of things will no longer work that it gets on the job.

Now there is no sense waiting for the sewed-up buttonholes of pain, failure, and trouble to make you live intelligently. The better alternative is to exercise your mind in all matters relating to daily living so that every action is the result, not of

QUESTIONS

1. How can the example of Jesus enable us to avoid the "sewed-up buttonholes of pain, failure, and trouble" in order to live the new year intelligently?
2. Before we can "love our fellowman sincerely," what must transpire in our hearts?
3. How can we live usefully as far as the church is concerned?
4. How can the program and program materials of Christian Endeavor help each of us to "maintain the spiritual glow" in the new year ahead?

habit, or impulse, or imitation, but of thought that has purpose, whose intent is the bettering and enriching of your life. As Paul phrases it: "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."

The Heart

"To love his fellowman sincerely" is the second requirement for making this year a banner one in your life. If one were to keep a daily record of all his actions and at the end of the year audit this personal register he would be startled at the discovery of just how useless or painful his living has been to others. He would be humbled by the realization that had he not existed the world would be no poorer a place to live in than it now is.

To love others is to live usefully, seeing life in terms of opportunities to minister to the necessities of others. It is a Grenfell devoting his medical skill to the impoverished, neglected inhabitants of Labrador. It is a Higgenbottom devoting his agricultural know-how to the improving of the economic condition of the people living in undernourished India. It is the voice in the choir, the hand that helps a struggling soul, the heart that speaks compassion to the fallen and the sorrowful, the feet which run on errands of mercy. It is being "kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another," as Paul so strongly urges.

The Will

"To act from highest motives purely" is the third suggestion. We all know right from wrong but we are not always too careful about translating that knowledge into corresponding behavior. Between our knowledge of right and wrong and our behavior there is a gap, like that which exists be-

tween the positive and negative pole storage battery. The cable needed to this interval so that contact is made maintained is one's own determination live righteously. This determination maintain active contact only as long as is kept in place by the earnest desire "provide all things honest in the sight of all men" as Paul exhorts, and to do the good and acceptable thing before God.

Living righteously translated into everyday behavior means refusing to take advantage of a weaker person, accepting harder duty of right than the easier of wrong, being willing to suffer through honesty than to enjoy gain through deception. To live righteously is to Christlike which the Master explained: "Not to do my own will but the will of Father in heaven."

The Soul

Lastly, "to trust in God and heaven securely" is what it takes to make this count for most. Paul expresses this as: "fervent in spirit," or as Moffatt translates: "Maintain the spiritual glow." It is neglect of this side of life that weakens our endeavors to be better than we are. When a man cuts himself off from heavenly supply which alone can keep flame of holiness glowing within, then light goes out and all his noble and sacrated efforts to live the good life shrouded in darkness.

God can never be charged with being guilty of a spiritual fuel shortage for abundance is more than sufficient for our needs. Whether we receive enough to keep alive that spiritual glow depends on us for the pet-cock is in our hands. The sure way that we have of keeping this open is by following the advice of I Corinthians 12:31: "Continuing instant in prayer, tasting the good word of God, forsaking not the assembling of the elect of God."

Suggested Program Outline

Call to Worship
Invocation and Lord's Prayer
Hymn: *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*
Responsive Reading: Selection No. 4
Gloria Patri
Worshipping with Our Gifts
Hymn: *Break Thou the Bread of Life*
Topic
Sentence Prayers (New Year Resolves)
Hymn: *Christ of the Upward Way*
Benediction

Advertising Hint

A week or ten days before this meeting send out invitations. Paste a CE monogram at the top. Underneath print the word "FOR." To the left draw, stencil, or paint a head of Christ. In the center print the word "AND." To the right place a picture of a church. Type in the words: "You are cordially invited to attend New Year's Resolutions Party to be held at the church (give time and place)."

Daily Devotional Readings

- M., Dec. 23. Loyalty to Christ. Mark 10:28-31.
T., Dec. 24. Concern for the Church. Acts 15:35,36,41.
W., Dec. 25. Paying the Price of Discipleship. Matthew 16:24-26.
T., Dec. 26. Paying the Price of Church Membership. I Corinthians 16:1-4.
F., Dec. 27. "This Is My Body." I Corinthians 11:23-24.
S., Dec. 28. The Church Is Christ's Body. Ephesians 1:20-23.
Sun., Dec. 29. Topic—Resolved: For Christ and the Church. Romans 12:1-8.

*Dr. Haas is professor of Hebrew and Old Testament studies at Bloomfield College and Seminary, Bloomfield, New Jersey.

Looking Both Ways

Ezekiel 18:30-32; Philippians 3:12-14



Intermediate (12-14 Years)

DECEMBER 29

Comments by Dr. Jerome DeJong*

Relationship Service

Begin the service by singing the hymn, *Ant Your Blessings*, found in many hymnals. If you cannot find this hymn, *For the Duty of the Earth* is equally appropriate. Before you proceed with your meeting have each person present list on a paper (provided before the meeting) the blessings he received from God during 1957. After a few minutes have the leader suggest a period of meditation (no writing). Then have each person read one of the sentences. Sing *Take Life and Let It Be*. You have now set the tone of your meeting. Choose hymns on the theme of thankfulness or dedication. The suggested daily Scripture lessons may be read in this order: Wednesday; Monday; Tuesday; Thursday; Friday; and Saturday. A good closing hymn of consecration is *O God, I Have Promised*.

Introducing the Topic

How many things would you like to forget about 1957? How many things would you like to remember? Every year has its supply of good and bad, of helpful experiences and of sad remembrances. How easily we forget the past (that is, the bad part), and with it sometimes forget its lessons. How difficult it is to look ahead without too much thought to the future. God reminds us, however, that the past has something to teach us for the future. On the other hand we must not try to live like the past, but learn from our experiences for a better future.

Scripture

Have the leader read Philippians 3:12-14. Have each person read this passage in the Revised Standard Version: "Not that I have already attained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Jesus Christ has made me His own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Forget the Past

There were a lot of people in Paul's day who bragged about their religious pedigree. They said, "We are fine people! We are very religious!" Paul said that when it came to boasting he had more to say than anyone else. (Ask someone present: Why was this a clue—Philippians 3:5,6.) However, Paul is immediately aware of his shortcomings and therefore suggests that Christians forget the past.

There are certain things about the past we ought to remember. Read Monday's Scripture (Deuteronomy 4:9,10). Think of the things you and I ought to remember about the past. Refer here to the lists on objects of thankfulness. Take a little time to

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OUR AIMS

1. To review the past and consider its blessings.
2. To arouse to greater effort in the present.
3. To see the future as a goal to be achieved.
4. To inspire to greater things in 1958.

QUESTIONS

1. What lessons can history teach us for the future?
2. How can I best serve the present age?
3. What are the greatest weaknesses of our local Christian Endeavor? How can we overcome them?
4. Compare an athletic event and the Christian life. See how many similarities you can find, especially in the light of I Corinthians 9:24,25 as printed in this topic.
5. Make a set of resolutions for 1958. How can I best carry them out? Read them again at the end of next year.

remember some of the gifts of God in the past. Perhaps it might be revealing also to try to list together some of the accomplishments of your Christian Endeavor group during the past year. (Socials, parties, etc., do not count!)

While we are busy remembering our past accomplishments it would be good to consider our failures also. Read Ezekiel 18:30-32 in this connection. In what way have we failed as a society? (If you have a blackboard available it would be helpful to list the society's accomplishments in one column and the failures in another.)

Consider these reasons for forgetting the past: (1) *Discouragement and spiritual paralysis*. "We were so bad we will never be better. Let's give up!" (2) *Self-satisfaction*. "We are the best society in the business. We cannot improve our excellent record. Let us coast in 1958!"

Living in the Present

To live in the future we need a real vision. That vision comes out of our present need. Without vision people perish. Are there real needs? What of your church? Your community? Are there things you can do?

Paul says that knowing the vision, he will "strain forward" and "press on." Ask the athletes present how to play the game. Do you "play at it" or "put your soul into it"? Discuss how a Christian might press on: Run hard! Keep your eye on the goal! Lay

aside every weight! Race to win! Never give up! In this connection note also II Timothy 2:14-16 and Hebrews 12:1,2.

Attaining the Future

Paul was called by God for a purpose. God used him as a chosen vessel to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul was exhibit number one of God's redeeming grace. The prize is God's glory here and that which is yet to come. The goal of Paul's spiritual combat is the eternal crown of righteousness that never fades. Read II Timothy 4:7,8. There is another very picturesque expression of this truth in I Corinthians 9:24,25. Phillips translation is very graphic and will certainly give a good idea of Paul's meaning to anyone interested in sports.

"Do you remember how, on a racing-track, every competitor runs, but only one wins the prize? Well, you ought to run with your minds fixed on winning the prize! Every competitor in athletic events goes into serious training. Athletes will take tremendous pains for a fading crown of leaves. But our contest is for an eternal crown that will never fade."

Closing the Service

A poem may be read that has to do with the new year. One suggested is Henry Longfellow's *Excelsior*. This can be effective if read well.

Essentials

"For Christ and the Church" was first suggested as the motto of Christian Endeavor by Dr. Francis E. Clark in 1887. This long-standing motto is being lifted up again with special significance as the present four-year emphasis. It is our new, yet old, theme. Upon this sure foundation rests the program of Christian Endeavor.

A tree puts forth new leaves every year, but it does not change its roots. It simply lengthens and strengthens them. The four cardinal principles which may be considered as the established "roots" of Christian Endeavor are: Confession of Christ, Service for Christ, Loyalty to Christ's Church, Fellowship with Christ's people. These are the essential principles. As Dr. Clark, the founder of Christian Endeavor, once said, "With these roots the Christian Endeavor tree will bear fruit in any soil. Cut away any of these roots and the tree dies."

How does your society program line up with these four essentials?

Projects

Use your school vacation period to give extra service to your church. Consult with your pastor.

Appoint a special committee to arrange for the Christian Endeavor Week anniversary, January 26 to February 2. Secure the Christian Endeavor Week Packet (50c) from the International Society.

Find out about Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Contest by reading page 3 of this issue of THE WORLD. Nomination deadline is February 3.

For Daily Meditation

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| M., Dec. 23. | Take Heed to Remember. | Deuteronomy 4:9,10. |
| T., Dec. 24. | Work for Approval. | I Timothy 2:14-16. |
| W., Dec. 25. | Hitherto. | I Samuel 7:3,11,12. |
| T., Dec. 26. | Seeking Spiritual Gifts. | I Corinthians 14:1,12. |
| F., Dec. 27. | The Past Challenges the Future. | Hebrews 12:1,2. |
| S., Dec. 28. | Future Reward for Past Labor. | II Timothy 4:7,8. |
| Sun., Dec. 29. | Topic—Looking Both Ways. | Ezekiel 18:30-32; Philippians 3:12-14. |

Christian Endeavor Honor Societies

International Society is happy to present the fourth list of societies and unions who have officially become members of the International Society of Christian Endeavor by financial support during the 1957 Society Roll Call.

Special certificates have been given to these organizations. The societies and unions are listed as those receiving gold seals (having given \$50 or more), red seals (having contributed \$25), and blue seals (having given \$10).

Gold Seal

Williston Church, Portland, Me.
The First Church of Evans, Derby, N.Y.
Longtimers Association, Philadelphia, Pa.

Red Seal

First Christian Church, Sheridan, Ind.
Adult-Alumni Department, New Jersey Union
Union Evangelical Church, Corona, N.Y.
Alumni Fellowship, New York, N.Y.
Senior-Young People's, Hillsdale Evangelical and
Reformed Church, Portland, Ore.

Blue Seal

East Side Christian Church, Denver, Colo.
Kanaana Hou Society, Kalaupapa, Molokai, T.H.
First Presbyterian Church, Atco, N.J.
Bethlehem Union Church, Clark, N.J.
Intermediate, Second Reformed Church, Somerville, N.J.
Hopewell, First Reformed Protestant Dutch Church,
Hopewell Junction, N.Y.
Senior, Nelson Memorial Church, Long Island
City, N.Y.
Adult, Oak Street Evangelical United Brethren
Church, Dayton, Ohio
North Bruce, United Brethren Church, Port Elgin,
Ont.
West Branch Senior, Havertown, Pa.
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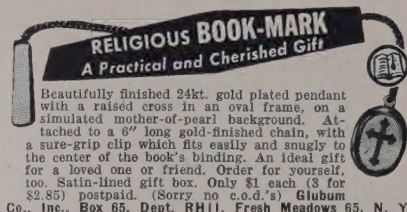
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JUNIOR CE MEETINGS The Quarterly for Juniors

Topics for DECEMBER

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8. The Message of Good Will. Matthew 5:43-48.
15. The Message of Peace. Luke 2:7-14.
22. The Message of Joy. Acts 8:4-8.
29. The Message of Hope. Romans 15:4-7, 13.

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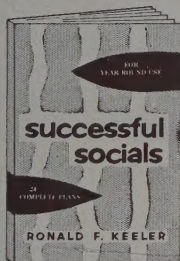
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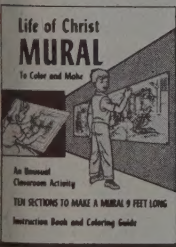
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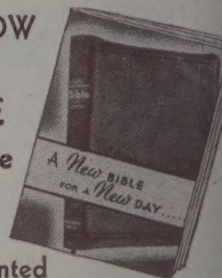
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